

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL -INFORMAL

1. WE INTERPRET MOSCOW 11117 AS INDICATING THAT SPASO
HOUSE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE AVAILABLE TO SECRETARY HARRIS
IN THE AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE. PLEASE CONFIRM.

IN LETTER TO NOVIKOV CONVEYED BY STATE 181501, MRS.
HARRIS STATES THAT WHILE SHE INVOLVED IN JOINT COMMITTEE
MEETING, HER HUSBAND "WILL BE GUEST OF THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY". DOES EMBASSY WISH TO PROVIDE SEPARATE PROGRAM
FOR JUDGE HARRIS (AND FOR WIFE OF HUD ASSISTANT SECRETARY
AND FHA COMMISSIONER LAWRENCE SIMONS) OR WOULD YOU PREFER
THAT HUD ASK SOVIETS TO DO SO?

2. BILL LUERS IS THINKING OF AN ORIENTATION TRIP TO MOSCOW
AND WONDERS HOW THE LAST TEN DAYS OF SEPTEMBER WOULD LOOK
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FROM YOUR END.

3. RE OUR SUGGESTION THAT SOMETHING BE WORKED UP FOR MRS.
CARTER, I GATHER FROM THE TONE OF PARA 3 MOSCOW 11267

THAT URGENCY OF EMBASSY'S REPLACEMENT HAS SUBSIDED TO
MANAGEABLE PROPORTIONS. WE HAVE TURNED OURSELVES AND THE

SYSTEM INSIDE OUT TO FIND A QUICK AND GOOD FIX. WE WILL TRY OUT ON CARTER THE PART-TIME OFFER. IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, WE WILL PUSH FOR MANDEL, BUT OUTLOOK IS NOT GOOD BECAUSE INR IS DUG IN, HAVING GIVEN UP CLYATT UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES. WE HAVE UNCOVERED AN INCOMING FSO WITH RUSSIAN WHO MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN THE WINTER.

4. RE MOSCOW 11062 MEL DISCUSSED THE HEBREW MANUSCRIPT WITH RABBI POLLAK AND BRONSTEIN ABOUT A YEAR AGO, BUT HE DID NOT RPT NOT COMMIT US TO TRANSMITTING THE MATERIALS. MEL TALKED TO BRONSTEIN AND POLLAK AGAIN TODAY. STORY IS AS FOLLOWS: BRONSTEIN USED TO MAKE TRIPS INTO THE USSR AS HEAD OF ORGANIZATION CALLED "AL TIDOM" ("LET US NOT FORGET"). PURPOSE OF VISITS WAS TO BRING RELIGIOUS MATERIALS TO JEWS AND TO JEWISH SCHOLARS IN USSR. BRONSTEIN WAS CAUGHT BY SOVIETS DURING ONE OF THESE VISITS AND EXPELLED AND HAS NOT BEEN BACK SINCE LATE SIXTIES. HOWEVER, HE SENDS "EMISSARIES" TO CARRY ON THE WORK. DURING A VISIT IN 1965, BRONSTEIN SAW SOME MANUSCRIPTS BY AN EMINENT JEWISH SCHOLAR, RABBI KRASILSHCHIKOV, AND RECOGNIZED THEM AS MAJOR WORKS ON THE JERUSLEM TALMUD. HE GOT ONE OF THESE COMMENTARIES OUT AND HAD IT PUBLISHED, BUT WAS UNABLE TO GET OTHERS, WHICH WERE GIVEN TO KRASILSHCHIKOV'S SISTERS FOR SAFE-KEEPING. THE COMMENTARIES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE SCHOLARLY CLASSICS AND, ACCORDING TO BRONSTEIN, ARE INVALUABLE, BUT NOT FROM A COMMERCIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CIAL STANDPOINT. HE SAYS THEY WOULD BE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEBREW SCHOLARSHIP. POLLAK SAYS WHAT HE GAVE YOU ARE MICROFILMS OF THE MANUSCRIPTS, WHICH HE WAS ABLE TO GET UNEXPECTEDLY THIS TRIP. BOTH SWEAR MATERIALS ARE NOT POLITICAL OR COMMERCIAL AND PROMISE TO RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE CHANNEL IF MANUSCRIPTS ARE FORWARDED. WE

BELIEVE THEM AND ARE PREPARED TO HANDLE THEM IF YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION TO TRANSMITTING THEM.

CHRISTOPHER

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